

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

23rd April 2026

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Polling has begun this morning for the first phase of Assembly elections in West Bengal and the single-phase elections in Tamil Nadu. In West Bengal, a total of 152 assembly constituencies are going to the polls in this first phase, covering 16 districts. In Tamil Nadu, elections are being held for all the 234-Assembly constituencies in the state from 7 AM till 6 PM. Meanwhile, all arrangements are in place in both the states to ensure free, fair, and peaceful polling. The Election Commission has already directed authorities to ensure an inducement-free elections while avoiding inconvenience to the public. District Grievance Committees have also been set up to address complaints related to enforcement activities.

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The government has notified Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules 2026 which will come into force from 1st of May. The aim of the rules is to provide a clear, transparent and time-bound mechanism to determine whether an online game is an online money game or a permissible online social game or e-sport. Briefing media about the rules yesterday, Secretary of Ministry of Electronics and IT, S Krishnan said that the framework introduces an optional determination process to classify games as either online money games or social games, which may be initiated by the regulatory authority, service providers, or the Government in specific cases.

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The Government yesterday refuted a circulating social media post, which claims that the local vendor whose shop Prime Minister and Senior BJP leader Narendra Modi visited in West Bengal recently is a security personnel. The Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) said that claim is completely fake. It also urged the citizens to not fall for such unverified news and rely on information obtained from official sources.

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Advisor for Industries and Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu has stated that the District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) plays a crucial role in governance and development, and is not merely a body for the registration of societies. Speaking at the DPDB monthly meeting in Dimapur yesterday, Ms. Jakhalu emphasized that key decisions are taken on the platform and called on officers to work collectively. She also stressed on the importance of convergence among departments for effective governance. Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Tinojongshi Chang informed that Dimapur district ranks 10th among 158 districts in the Northeast region on Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting also approved and recommended a No Objection Certificate for the establishment of the Asian Mission Institute, which will offer undergraduate, postgraduate and Integrated Teacher Education Programme courses in Arts, Science and Commerce.

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Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority under the Home Department is set to organize the 8th edition of the Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NEPEX) on April 30. The large-scale mock exercise is being conducted by NSDMA with support from the National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

